Listing of Claims:

The following listing of claims replaces all prior versions.

1. **(CURRENTLY AMENDED)** A method for subliminally encoding data in the image portion of a video signal, wherein the resolution of the image is decreased by a factor of N, comprising:

selecting a plurality of 2N consecutive lines in a frame of the video signal;

increasing the luminances of N consecutive lines by an amount that is not visually perceptible; and

decreasing the luminaces of the next N consecutive lines;

~~such that the encoding survives a subsequent decrease in resolutaion by a factor of N/2 by increasing and decreasing the luminances on N adjacent lines in a prescribed pattern that does not affect the image perceived by the human eye;~~

whereby the encoding can be decoded after said reduction in resolution.

2. **(CURRENTLY AMENDED)** A method for subliminally encoding data ~~in the image portion of a video signal such that the encoding survives a subsequent decrease in resolution~~ in accordance with claim 1 wherein when the luminance of a each line is increased or decreased ~~, the entire line is changed the same way~~ uniformly.

3. **(CURRENTLY AMENDED)** A method for subliminally encoding data in the image portion of a video signal ~~such that the encoding survives a subsequent decrease in resolution~~ in accordance with claim 2 wherein the luminances of said N lines is varied according to a sinusoidal function.

2

4. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method for subliminally encoding data in the image portion of a video signal ~~such that the encoding survives a subsequent decrease in resolution~~ in accordance with claim 2 wherein the luminances of said N lines is changed according to a sawtooth function.

5. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method for subliminally encoding data in the image portion of a video signal ~~such that the encoding survives a subsequent decrease in resolution~~ in accordance with claim 2 wherein the luminance is increased a constant amount for N/2 lines and decreased by the same constant amount for N/2 lines.

6. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method for subliminally encoding data in the image portion of a video signal ~~such that the encoding survives a subsequent decrease in resolution~~ in accordance with claim 2 wherein for each of said N lines for which the luminance is increased by a certain amount there is a corresponding line for which the luminance is decreased by the same amount.

7. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method for encoding data in the image portion of a video signal ~~such that the encoding survives a subsequent decrease in resolution by~~ <u>comprising:</u>

<u>modifying a group of adjacent lines of a frame by</u> increasing and decreasing the luminances of ~~a~~ <u>said</u> group ~~of adjacent~~ lines in a <u>frame following a</u> prescribed pattern that does not affect the image perceived by the human eye, the luminances of the lines being increased and decreased <u>by amounts selected to render said increases and decreases substantially invisible to a human eye, wherein</u> ~~in such a~~

~~way that~~ wherein in said prescribed pattern wherein substantially all of ~~most of~~ the lines are adjacent other lines whose luminances are changed in the same direction;

transmitting said video signal with said modified lines;

downrezing said video signal; and

extracting said data from said modified lines, wherein said data survices said downrezing.

8. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method for encoding data in the image portion of a video signal ~~such that the encoding survives a subsequent decrease in resolution~~ in accordance with claim 7 wherein when the luminance of a line is increased or decreased uniformly.

9. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method for encoding data in the image portion of a video signal ~~such that the encoding survives a subsequent decrease in resolution~~ in accordance with claim 7 wherein the luminances of said lines are changed according to a sinusoidal function.

10. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method for encoding data in the image portion of a video signal ~~such that the encoding survives a subsequent decrease in resolution~~ in accordance with claim 7 wherein the luminances of said lines are changed according to a sawtooth function.

11. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method for encoding data in the image portion of a video signal ~~such that the encoding survives a subsequent decrease in resolution~~ in accordance with claim 7 wherein the luminance is increased a constant

amount for half the lines and decreased by the same constant amount for the other half of the lines <u>of said group</u>.

12. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method for encoding data in the image portion of a video signal ~~such that the encoding survives a subsequent decrease in resolution~~ in accordance with claim 7 wherein for each of said lines for which the luminance is increased by a certain amount there is a corresponding line for which the luminance is decreased by the same amount.

13. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method for encoding data in the image portion of a video signal ~~by~~ <u>comprising</u> increasing and decreasing the luminances of a group of lines <u>within a portion of a frame of the video signal</u> in a prescribed pattern ~~that~~ <u>selected to eliminate any effects on</u> ~~does not affect~~ the image perceived by the human eye, the luminances of the lines being increased and decreased in such a way that ~~most of~~ <u>substantially all of</u> the lines are adjacent other lines whose luminances are changed in the same direction.

14. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method for encoding data in the image portion of a video signal in accordance with claim 13 wherein when the luminance of a line is increased or decreased, the entire line is changed ~~the same way~~ <u>uniformly</u>.

15. (ORIGINAL) A method for encoding data in the image portion of a video signal in accordance with claim 13 wherein the luminances of said lines are changed according to a sinusoidal function.

16. (ORIGINAL) A method for encoding data in the image portion of a video signal in accordance with claim 13 wherein the luminances of said lines are changed according to a sawtooth function.

17. (ORIGINAL) A method for encoding data in the image portion of a video signal in accordance with claim 13 wherein the luminance is increased a constant amount for half the lines and decreased by the same constant amount for the other half of the lines.

18. (ORIGINAL) A method for encoding data in the image portion of a video signal in accordance with claim 13 wherein for each of said lines for which the luminance is increased by a certain amount there is a corresponding line for which the luminance is decreased by the same amount.

19. (NEW) A method of encoding data in the image portion of the video signal wherein said video signal is downrezed by a factor N further comprising :

selecting a group of 2N successive lines from a frame of the video signal;

raising the amplitude of N successive lines of said group by an amount small enough so that the change in the video signal is substantially imperceptible; and

lowering the amplitude of the remaining N successive lines of said group by the same amount.

20. (NEW) A method of encoding data according to claim 19 further comprising decoding said data, wherein the decoded data is unaffected by said downrezing.